

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 CIEP-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 IO-12 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20

SCI-06 TAR-02 SS-14 L-03 H-02 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 191025 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4971

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USEC BRUSSELS 34

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OTRA (DUNCAN, ROBERT), ETRD, EEC, ECA

SUBJ: WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. DURING DUNCAN VISIT DAHOMEY, DISCUSSED SUBJECT ISSUE WITH NIGER
PERM REP IN DAHOMEY YATTARA, MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGAN-
IZATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AHOUNODOGBO, MINFIN TECHNICAL
CONSULTANT D' ASSOMPTION, DIRECTOR OF DAHOMEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
AND PRESIDENTIAL ECONOMIC ADVISOR BABA MOUSSA, PLAN DIRECTOR
IBRAHIM, AND SECGEN OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VIADENOU. BOTH AHOUNO-
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DOGBO AND IBRAHIM ATTENDED ECA MINISTERIAL AND FORMER WAS MEMBER LEGON PANEL OF EXPERTS.

2. RE PROSPECTS FOR ABIDJAN MINISTERIAL, BOTH AHOUNODOGBO AND IBRAHIM PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON UPCOMING PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ADDIS BEGINNING MARCH 26 WHICH IBRAHIM AND PERHAPS AHOUNODOGBO WILL ATTEND. AHOUNODOGBO BELIEVED THAT IF EXPERTS ADOPT AGREED POSITION ON BASIC PRINCIPLES LEGON REPORT (IE, NON- RECIPROCITY, NO AID LINK TO TRADE CONCESSIONS, ETC) PROSPECTS FOR ABIDJAN MINISTERIAL WOULD BE FAVORABLE. HOWEVER, GIVEN BITTER OPPOSITION OF SENEGALESE AND IVOIRIENS TO LEGON REPORT, AHOUNODOGBO BELIEVED RESULTS OF EXPERTS MEETING COULD NOT NOW BE PREJUDGED. HE SAID VAST MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS SUPPORTED REPORT DESPITE ABSENCE OF NIGERIANS. IBRAHIM SHARED VIEW THAT EXPERTS MEETING WOULD BE OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE IN SENSE THAT IF EXPERTS IN LESS POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE COULD NOT ACHIEVE AGREEMENT, MEMBERS NEVER COULD. IBRAHIM REMAINED HOPEFUL AND SAID INCREASED EUROPEAN FLEXIBILITY ON REVERSE PREFERENCES COULD GREATLY ASSIST AFRICAN DELIBERATIONS. WITH RESPECT THESE PREFERENCES, D' ASSOMPTION AND VIADENOU STATED THAT TRANSIT- TRADE THROUGH TOGO TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES INCLUDING DAHOMEY RESULTED FROM FACT THAT TOGO DID NOT HAVE TO LEVY HIGHER TARIFFS ON THIRD COUNTRIES AND COULD IMPORT AT LOWER COST. HOWEVER, IF EUROPEANS REMAINED INFLEXIBLE, POOR COUNTRIES LIKE DAHOMEY WOULD FACE DELICATE PROBLEM IN THAT THEY, IN CONTRAST TO NIGERIANS, WERE AS MUCH CONCERNED WITH AID ASPECTS OF BOTH YAOUNDE AND FRENCH BILATERAL PROGRAMS AS COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

3. WITH REGARD CEAO, ALL CORRESPONDENTS QUERIED CONFIRMED THAT DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET FOR ABIDJAN MEETING. ACCORDING YATTARA, DAHOMEY PRESIDENT KEREKOU AND NIGER PRESIDENT DIORI ARE OF IDENTICAL VIEW THAT CEAO WITHOUT ANGLOPHONES IS MEANINGLESS. ALL CONTACTS AGREED NIGERIA CONSTITUTES THE MAJOR AFRICAN TRADING PARTNER FOR DAHOMEY WHICH HAS NO DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS WITHOUT CLOSE ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION WITH ITS EASTERN NEIGHBOR. BABA MOUSSA BELIEVED DAHOMEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH NIGERIA WAS PROGRESSING VERY WELL AND SHOULD PROCEED ON PROJECT- BY- PROJECT BASIS. HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO DAHOMEAN SUGAR MILL PROJECT AND SAID DAHOMEY HAD DECIDED OFFER NIGERIA DIRECT FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT IN EFFORT REINFORCE FUTURE SALES RELATIONSHIP. IN THIS CONNECTION, VIADENOU SAID PROSPECTS WERE ALSO FAVORABLE FOR DAHOMEAN CEMENT PROJECT INVOLVING SALES ON ORDER OF 200 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOUSAND TONS PER YEAR TO NIGERIA PROVIDED DAHOMEY COULD OFFER

COMPETITIVE PRICE AND QUALITY.
ANDERSON

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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